

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Beamer Barn  
other names/site number 063-30

### 2. Location

street & number 2931 CR 18 ☐ not for publication  
city or town Oakley ☐ vicinity  
state Kansas code KS county Gove code 063 zip code 67748

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State Historic Preservation Office, Kansas Historical Society  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other,  
(explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Beamer Barn  
Name of Property

Gove County, Kansas  
County and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

Total

### Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas

### Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture: Animal facility / storage

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture: Animal facility

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Gothic-Arch Barn

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Other: Ceramic cinder blocks

roof Wood shingle

other

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Beamer Barn  
Name of Property

Gove County, Kansas  
County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture  
Architecture

### Period of Significance

1924

### Significant Dates

1924

### Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Beamer, Ross; Gallion, Ross

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Kansas State Historic Preservation Office

Beamer Barn
Name of Property

Gove County, Kansas  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre

**UTM References**  
(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

☐ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**  
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By \_\_\_\_\_

name/title					Lany Sharp with assistance from KSHS staff					
organization				date		February 2010				
street & number				telephone		785-672-8831				
city or town			state		zip code		67748			
Oakley			KS							

## Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

## Continuation Sheets

## Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

## Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**  
(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name	Tom and Lany Sharp			
street & number	2931 CR 18		telephone	785-672-8831
city or town	Oakley	state	Kansas	zip code 67748

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Oakley vicinity, Gove County, Kansas  
Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of KansasSection number 7 Page 1

## PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The Beamer Barn (1923-1924) is located at 2931 CR 18 immediately southwest of I-70 exit 79 in the far northwest corner of Gove County, Kansas. With its rounded Gothic-arch roof, the barn dominates the small farmstead, which also includes a house, modern garage, Quonset hut, granary, and washhouse. A silo once stood west of the barn, but is no longer extant. Today, the barn is vacant and no longer used as part of a working farm, however, it retains its historic interior features including the central aisle, stanchions, and upper story hayloft.

The Beamer Barn is an example of a Gothic-arch roof barn, as defined by the "Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas" multiple property documentation form. Barns classified as Arch-Roof barns, which include both rounded-arch and Gothic-arch roof barns, are distinguished simply by their roofs. Arch-Roof barns were designed for maximum hay storage and the hay hoods and hay doors are major character-defining features.

The first story of the Beamer Barn is constructed of hard-fired ceramic blocks that rest upon a concrete foundation. The second story of the barn is wood framed, with horizontal weatherboards within the arched ends and a wood-shingle roof with a graceful, Gothic arch.

Its rafters are constructed of bent round rafters that are four and five boards thick. It is likely that this mix of types was for utilized for stabilization purposes: "Bent-rafter gothic construction, although more economical in labor and materials, proved less rigid than the more expensive sawn type. For this reason, many farmers adopted a combination of the two, with the sawn type spaced every eight to twelve feet and the bent rafters spaced between, twenty-four inches on center."<sup>1</sup> The bent rafters join the wall plate at the top of the first floor level. These rafters were *likely* nailed together, since glue lamination was not widely used until the 1930s, but this has not been field verified. Horizontal beams near the interior peak provide bracing, as do several spaced vertical beams.

The east (front) elevation is defined by a haymow at the roof peak and a large sliding hay door on the second story. There are three ground-level, single-door entrances into the barn. These are Dutch doors, which consist of two separate leaves, one above the other that may operate independently of one another.<sup>2</sup> The central entrance leads to the central aisle that bisects the building. The south entrance is where horses can enter the building from the small, enclosed yard into an area with wood frame feeding troughs that line the central aisle. The north entrance provides access to the stanchions. Inside the northeast corner of the

<sup>1</sup> Allen G. Noble and Hubert G. H. Wilhelm. *Barns of the Midwest*, (Athens OH: Ohio University Press, 1995), 162.

<sup>2</sup> Cyril M. Harris, *Dictionary of Architecture and Construction* (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1975), 172.

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building is an old manure bucket on a track that ran outside where it could “‘trip’ and empty into a manure spreader,” according to Beamer’s daughter Wilma.<sup>3</sup>

The north and south (side) elevations are identical in appearance each with three pairs of small, wood-frame hopper windows each with four lights along the first story. The windows feature concrete sills. The eave of the roof curves outward to provide a small overhang where the first and second stories meet. One window is missing on the south elevation at the east end. The opening has been covered with plywood.

The west (rear) elevation includes three ground-level, single-door entrances into the barn. Like the doors on the east elevation, these are Dutch doors, which consist of two separate leaves, one above the other that may operate independently of one another. The central entrance leads to the central aisle that bisects the building.

#### Integrity

The building’s roof, which is clad with the original wood shingles, is in deteriorated condition. The interior of the wood-framed upper floor appears to be in good shape, but will quickly deteriorate without repairs to the roof.

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<sup>3</sup> Wilma Beamer Woodhouse, daughter of Ross Beamer, handwritten account of her memories of the Beamer Barn, undated, unpublished. On file at the Cultural Resources Division, Kansas Historical Society.

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Beamer Barn is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of agricultural history and Criterion C in the area of architecture. This Gothic-arch barn was built in 1923-1924 by farmer (Clinton) Ross Beamer and his brother-in-law Ross Gallion to replace a barn that had burned.

## Elaboration

The development of the wood-frame barn climaxed with the Gambrel-Roof barn and culminated with the Arch-Roof barn.<sup>4</sup> Arch-Roof barns gained popularity in the late 1910s, when manufacturers began to mass-produce prefabricated curved rafters. Like many Gambrel-Roof barns, pre-cut catalog companies promulgated Arch-Roof barns. The Sears, Roebuck Company featured an Arch-Roof barn on the front and back covers of its 1919 catalog. Arch-Roof barns were also marketed by the Gordon-Van Tine Company, which first featured the barns in its 1917 catalog.<sup>5</sup> The Loudon Company also made significant advances in arch-roof construction. In the late 1930s, agricultural engineers developed a system of laminated rafters, which enhanced the structural integrity.

By the time Arch-Roof barns peaked in popularity, farmers had begun to place less of a premium on hay storage. As they transitioned from animal-powered machinery to tractors, draft animals, and the hay to feed them, were no longer necessary. At the same time, in the 1930s, the first portable hay balers, which could gather, bale and tie hay in one motion, were available. Balers could condense loose hay from five pounds per cubic foot into bales that held 40 pounds per cubic foot. These dense small bales could be stored with ease and in less space. In the 1960s, the technological contributions of two Kansans, agricultural engineer Wesley F. Buchele and Hesston Corporation's Lyle Yost, led to the development of large round bales, which could be covered and stored on the ground.<sup>6</sup> So, even farmers, particularly dairy farmers, who still relied upon hay, no longer required vast storage space. In the post-war years, one-story steel machine sheds and storage buildings forever supplanted wood-frame barns.

Arch-Roof barns are very rare in Kansas. They are equally distributed among the state's regions, making up about three percent of the 315 barns surveyed statewide in 2007. There are at least two known Sears catalog barns with Gothic-Arch roofs – one near Fowler in southwest Kansas and one near Lincolnville in Marion County. The two are nearly identical in design.

Ross Beamer purchased this farmstead in 1911 during the "Golden Age of Agriculture," when crop prices were high and the number of farms and acres farmed in Kansas steadily increased. A 1907 map of Gove

<sup>4</sup> This context about Arch-Roof barns is taken from Brenda Spencer and Christy Davis, "Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas" National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form (Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 2007), F54-55.

<sup>5</sup> Noble, *Barns of the Midwest*, 161-162.

<sup>6</sup> Robert L. Marsh, *Barns of Kansas: A Pictorial History* (Robert Marsh, 2003), 13.

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County shows the Union Pacific railroad passing through the county to the northern tier of the county less than two miles from this farmstead, which was then owned by E. R. Comstock. The Beamer farm was 320 acres, a similar size to most area farms of the time, which were between 160 and 320 acres.<sup>7</sup>

This Gothic-arch barn was built in about 1923 to replace a barn that had burned. It was built for maximum hay storage on the upper floor, and the ground level was used to house calves, cows, and horses. There was also a grain room. Beamer's daughter Wilma Beamer Woodhouse later recalled in a written account the "huge hayloft, stalls for six horses, a pen for calves, two pens for cows with sliding doors...stanchions for 20 cows...a grain room and an aisle down the center that was open to face or feed all the animals." She also recalled the manure bucket that still hangs on its track.<sup>8</sup>

An early twentieth-century photograph shows fenced areas east, west, and north of the barn that were used for livestock. The barn no longer functions as part of a working farmstead, although horses have recently been boarded at the barn.

According to the 1930 U.S. Federal Census, (Clinton) Ross Beamer and his wife Ethel had three young children Leah, Wilma, and Ross. A fourth child, Geneva, was born later. The Census noted Ross's occupation as a farmer, but listed no occupation outside the house for Ethel.<sup>9</sup>

Ross Beamer's daughters Wilma Woodhouse, Geneva Brothers, and Leah Walz eventually retained ownership of the property. They later sold it to Dennis and Della Beamer. The current owners, Tom and Lany Sharp, purchased the property in 2000.

<sup>7</sup> *Standard Atlas of Gove County, Kansas* (Chicago: George A. Ogle & Co., 1907), 19. Accessed online at kansasmemory.org.

<sup>8</sup> Wilma Beamer Woodhouse, daughter of Ross Beamer, handwritten account of her memories of the Beamer Barn, undated, unpublished. On file at the Cultural Resources Division, Kansas Historical Society.

<sup>9</sup> Ancestry.com. *1930 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2002. Year: 1930; Census Place: Grinnell, Gove, Kansas; Roll 702; Page: 3A; Enumeration District: 9; Image: 1089.0.



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Harris, Cyril M. *Dictionary of Architecture and Construction*. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1975.

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[http://www.kshs.org/resource/national\\_register/MPS/HistoricAgricultureRelatedResourcesofKSDRAFT\\_mps.pdf](http://www.kshs.org/resource/national_register/MPS/HistoricAgricultureRelatedResourcesofKSDRAFT_mps.pdf)

*Standard Atlas of Gove County, Kansas*. Chicago: George A. Ogle & Co., 1907. Accessed online at [kansasmemory.org](http://kansasmemory.org).

Woodhouse, Wilma Beamer (daughter of Ross Beamer). Handwritten account of her memories of the Beamer Barn, undated, unpublished. On file at the Cultural Resources Division, Kansas Historical Society.

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The Beamer Barn is located in the NE ¼, SE ¼, Section 10, Township 11S, Range 31 W in Gove County, Kansas.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nominated property includes the only the Beamer Barn and the land upon which it sits.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

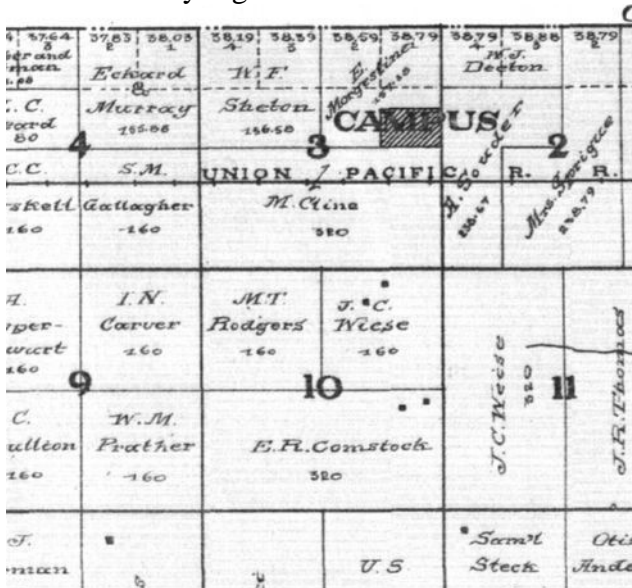
**Property:** Beamer Barn  
**Location:** 2931 CR 18, Oakley vicinity, Gove County  
**Photographer:** Sarah Martin  
**Date:** February 9, 2010

Digital images on file at the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office, 6425 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, Topeka, KS 66615

Photo 1: Forthcoming...

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**Figure 1:** The E. R. Comstock Farmstead in Section 10 later became the Beamer farm. Source: *Standard Atlas of Gove County, Kansas*. Chicago: George A. Ogle & Co., 1907. Accessed online at [kansasmemory.org](http://kansasmemory.org).



**Figure 2:** Beamer Barn – Undated Historic Photo

